



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - November 13, 2003

- ***In the West***, a slow-moving storm system is helping to build high-elevation snow packs in drought-stricken areas of the ***Great Basin*** and the ***Southwest***, while valley showers are improving soil moisture reserves but causing local flash flooding. In contrast, unfavorably dry conditions persist across the ***interior Northwest***, where cool weather continues to limit winter wheat development.
- ***On the Plains***, mild weather is eroding ***Montana's*** and ***South Dakota's*** remaining snow cover, but the melting snow is boosting soil moisture reserves for winter wheat. Farther south, unfavorably dry weather persists on the ***central High Plains***. Meanwhile on the ***southern High Plains***, where chilly weather prevails, rain showers are aiding winter wheat but slowing cotton, peanut, and sorghum harvesting.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow showers, high winds, and wet soils are halting corn harvesting in the ***lower Great Lakes region***. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, harvest activities are winding down under cool, breezy conditions.
- ***In the South***, cooler air is overspreading the region, but dry weather favors cotton and soybean harvesting and other autumn fieldwork.

Outlook: For the remainder of today, a strengthening low-pressure system over ***northern New England*** will provide much colder weather and locally damaging winds to the ***Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***. In addition to the high winds, lake-effect snow showers will fall downwind of the ***Great Lakes***. Meanwhile, a disturbance will continue to bring significant snow to the ***Great Basin and southern Rockies***. Light rain will gradually overspread the ***central and southern Plains***, while wet weather will return to the ***Pacific Northwest and northern California***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 18-22 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***East*** and the ***West***, while drier-than-normal conditions will prevail across much of the ***Plains and Midwest***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast throughout the ***lower 48 States***, except for near-normal readings in the ***Pacific Coast States*** and the ***Mid-Atlantic region***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>